

# THE RISING DAIRY BREED.

The French-Canadian Cattle. . . .

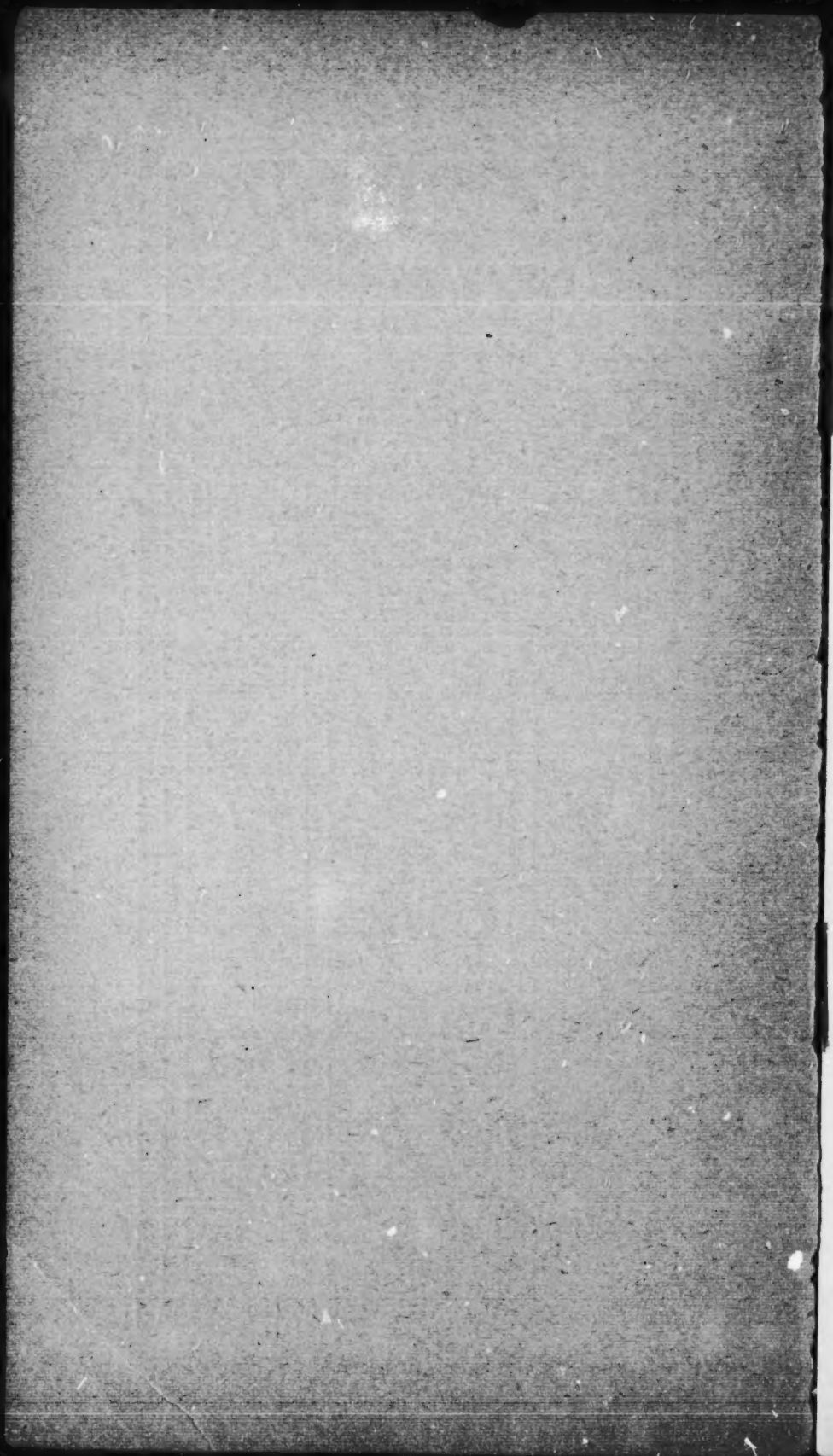
Also known as . . . . .

The "Canadian" Breed . . . .

And as . . . . .

The "Quebec Jerseys." . . . .





# **French Canadian Cattle.**

## **Our Canadian Breed.**

### **Origin.**

The early settlers in Canada came principally from Normandy and Brittany. These provinces are separated by but a narrow stretch of sea from the Channel Islands, the home of the Jerseys and the Guernseys. The cattle of the mainland and of the islands were of the same blood, and those which the colonists brought to Quebec, and from which the present French Canadian cattle are descended, were thus very closely related to the Channel Island breeds. Even now the resemblance is so close that many a light colored, pure-bred "Canadian" cow can almost pass as a dark Jersey. The "Canadians" have in fact been aptly named the first cousins of these other breeds, but their residence for two hundred and fifty years in the Province of Quebec has developed in them certain distinguishing characteristics, hereafter referred to.

### **Registration.**

In 1886, the Quebec Legislature gave an official standing to the breed by establishing a herd book, of which Dr. J. A. Couture, of Quebec, is the worthy and indefatigable secretary. Animals of acknowledged pure blood, and of superior dairy qualities were admitted to registration for ten years, but since 1896 none have been, or can be, entered, except the descendants of the foundation stock already recorded. The whole number of animals now on record is about 8,000. Their advance in popularity of recent years has been very marked, and they may emphatically be described as the rising dairy breed of Canada. In the United States also, a number of far-seeing breeders have adopted them, and an American herd book has been lately established. They are bound to spread rapidly south of the line, especially since their achievements at Buffalo.

## Description.

Their size is slightly less than that of some other breeds. The usual weight of an adult cow is from 700 to 900 lbs. The approved color is black, with or without an orange or fawn colored strip down the back and around the muzzle. The latter feature is sometimes called the "Jersey muzzle." They are very active, but at the same time remarkably docile and tranquil.

## Extreme Hardiness.

"The long and cold winters of Quebec, and the exposure to which these cattle have been subjected, have begotten in them a hardihood that is simply unrivalled in dairy cattle."—Extract from "The Study of Breeds," by Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the University of Minnesota. They are the breed adopted by M. Menier, the Chocolate King, for Anticosti, and it is claimed that no other breed could satisfactorily stand that climate. They appear to be peculiarly adapted to sections like Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

## Absence of Tuberculosis.

It is claimed that tuberculosis has never been known in this breed, excepting where it has been brought in contact with animals of other origin. The importance of this fact to those who wish to obtain thoroughly healthy milk for children, does not need to be enlarged upon.

## Thriftiness.

The coarse fare (frequently straw) upon which they have been fed in winter, has made them satisfied with plainer and poorer rations than could be profitably fed to other cattle. They probably surpass all other dairy breeds in ability to thrive on rugged pastures in summer and on coarse food in winter. They nevertheless respond splendidly to better treatment.

## Great Profitableness.

At the great six months test at the Pan-American Exhibition, Buffalo, each of ten competing breeds was represented by five of its best cows. The results showed that the French Canadian cattle gave more profit, in the form of churned butter, for each dollar's worth of food eaten than any other race. It is believed, moreover, that if the food supplied had been limited to such kinds only as are fed on the average farm, their superiority over all others would have been still more marked.

Every farmer has a certain quantity of food (whether it be pasture or hay) which his farm produces, and he very properly desires to know which breed will give him the greatest amount of profit in return for that food. The superior profitableness of the Canadian breed was well brought out at Buffalo, as the tables hereafter given will show.

There is one fact in connection with the Buffalo test which should be mentioned. Owing to various circumstances most of the cows which had been selected in advance to represent the "Canadians," had to be dropped out, and at the last moment others had to be chosen to fill their places. This meant of course that almost any that came to hand had to go. The result was that only three out of the five can be looked upon as worthy representatives of the breed, the other two being below the standard of the first three, one of them being moreover in calf. When noting the commanding position taken by the breed notwithstanding this handicap, it must always be remembered that if all the five cows had been up to the standard of the first three, their superiority would have been still more pronounced. For some of the tables we are able to give, for the sake of comparison, what the results would have been, had all the five cows given profit equal to the average of the best three.

# Percentage of Profit from Butter Actually Churned.—Buffalo Test.

BREEDS.	Lbs. of Milk.	Lbs. of Butter.	Value at 25c.	Cost of Feed.	Net Profits from Butter.	Additional Profit from Gain in Weight.		Total profits from butter and gain in weight.	Percentage of profit from churned Butter and gain in weight.
						Weight Gained.	Value at 3c. per lb.		
1. Fr. Canadian	24,678.4	1,025.30	\$256.32	\$113.10	\$143.22	288 lbs.	\$8.64	\$151.86	134.2 P.C.
2. Jersey.....	26,987.1	1,047.37	311.84	137.78	174.06	189 "	5.67	179.73	130.4 "
3. Guernsey...	27,127.6	1,233.22	308.80	136.99	171.81	195 "	5.85	177.66	129.7 "
4. Polled Jersey	20,278.9	963.52	241.38	109.47	131.91	185 "	5.55	137.46	125.6 "
5. Red Polled..	25,004.9	1,170.72	292.68	138.03	154.65	349 "	10.47	165.12	119.6 "
6. Ayrshire.....	32,006.2	1,214.05	303.62	140.98	162.64	199 "	5.97	168.61	119.6 "
7. Holstein....	39,359.8	1,251.57	312.89	164.69	148.20	391 "	11.73	159.93	97.1 "
8. Brown Swiss	30,891.5	1,126.57	281.64	147.26	134.38	198 "	5.94	140.32	95.3 "
9. Shorthorn...	31,874.9	1,140.65	285.16	162.12	123.04	804 "	24.12	147.16	90.8 "
10. Dutch Belted	24,893.5	907.33	226.83	132.32	94.51	375 "	11.25	105.76	79.9 "

During the first three weeks of the test, the butter was not churned (as required by the rules) but only estimated. The first three weeks were therefore officially omitted in deciding the competition for actual butter. Taking into account the *estimated* butter for the whole term, and adding the value of the gain in weight on the official basis of 3c. per lb., the percentage of profit to cost of feed was:—Average of best three Canadians, 177; Guernseys (five cows), 171; Jerseys, 168; Canadians (five cows), 160; Polled Jerseys, 160; Ayrshires, 159; Red Polls, 151; Holsteins, 136; Brown Swiss, 128; Shorthorns, 121; Dutch Belted, 97. The Canadians were not at their best during the first few weeks, being unaccustomed to the food supplied. It was three weeks before one of them ("Luna,") would eat ensilage.

The records of the best individual cows of several of the breeds are even more instructive.



# Record of Individual Cows, Pan-American Exhibition, Buffalo.

BREED.	NAME.	MILK.	PER CENT. OF FAT.	Value of Butter Estimated Officially.	Cost of Food.	Profit on Butter.	Weight of Cow at Entry.	Gain in Weight.	Value of gain at 5c. per lb.	Total profit from Butter and Gain.	Per- centage of profit from value of Food.
		Lbs.		\$	\$	\$	Lbs.	Lbs.	\$	\$	%
Best Canadian...	Den. Championne	5,404.2	4.03	64.16	23.52	40.64	750	64	1.92	42.56	181
Second do	Rouen.....	4,896.1	4.46	64.30	23.68	40.62	794	27	81	41.43	175
Third do	Liena Flory.....	5,458.0	3.92	63.13	23.72	39.41	1030	63	1.89	41.30	174
Average of best	three Canadians,	5,252.8	4.19	63.86	23.64	40.22	858	51	1.54	41.76	177
Best Ayrshire....	Kirsty Wallace..	6,469.7	3.83	73.08	27.74	45.35	966	44	1.32	46.67	168
Best Holstein....	Beauty of N.....	8,140.7	3.42	82.00	32.65	49.35	1017	64	1.92	51.27	157
Best Brown Swiss	Belle T.....	5,789.6	4.09	69.61	28.38	41.23	1039	17	51	41.74	147
Best Dutch Belted	Belle of D.....	5,313.2	4.15	64.95	26.93	38.02	935	83	2.49	40.51	150
Best Shorthorn...	Miss Molly ....	6,894.1	3.71	75.37	32.36	43.01	1075	134	4.02	47.03	145

The percentage of fat usually rises gradually with the lapse of time after calving. The average for the whole year would therefore be higher for most of the cows than the figures given above. It will be noticed that Rouen (of the Mount Victoria herd) had the highest percentage of fat shown in the above table.

The test for total milk solids is not so important, as it allows only the same value for solids containing a large percentage of butter fat as for those with little fat. It is therefore unfair to those breeds which give rich milk. Still even by this test the Canadians showed up remarkably well.

BREEDS.	Cost of Food.	Profits on solids, plus gain.	Per centage of profits to cost of food.
1 Canadian - - -	\$113.10	\$191.40	169 %
2 Ayrshire - - -	140.98	242.24	172 "
3 Holstein - - -	164.69	273.87	166 "
4 Red Polled - - -	138.03	212.08	154 "
5 Guernsey - - -	136.99	208.60	152 "
6 Jersey - - -	137.78	207.19	150 "
7 Brown Swiss - -	147.26	213.63	145 "
8 Shorthorn - - -	162.12	229.69	142 "
9 Polled Jersey -	109.47	153.63	140 "
10 Dutch Belted -	132.32	154.94	117 "

### Size of Herd which a Farmer can keep of different Breeds.

Owing to their hardiness and ability to thrive on but ordinary fare, a farmer can keep more Canadian cattle than of other breeds. The results of the Buffalo test were :

BREED.	Value of food eaten.	Number of cows which could be kept on food required by 100 Holsteins.
Canadians -	\$113.10	146
Dutch Belted -	132.32	124
Guernseys -	136.99	120
Jerseys - -	137.78	120
Red Polls -	138.03	119
Ayrshires -	140.98	117
Brown Swiss -	147.26	112
Shorthorns -	162.12	102
Holsteins -	164.69	100



It surely is of the utmost importance to a farmer to know that he can keep possibly three cows of this breed for every two of some other breeds. We do not deny that some large cows of other breeds at the Buffalo exhibition gave more profit *per cow* than the smaller French Canadians. That, however, is a matter of little importance to a farmer. He cares nothing whether his hay be eaten by two or by three cows. What he desires to know is how large a herd he can keep of each breed, and which of these *herds* will pay him best. A large cow which eats more than her proper share of food may give more milk or more butter than a smaller cow, and yet be less profitable than that smaller cow, for she and those like her will eat up a lot of food which could be used to better advantage in supporting an increased number of animals of another breed. It would be strange indeed if the 146 "Canadians" shown in the preceding table did not give as much, or more, profit than the smaller numbers of the other breeds. In actual experience on an ordinary farm, without any artificial conditions, it is reasonable to believe that their greater adaptability would enable not only 146, as in the above table, but 160, or even more, of this breed, to be kept. Smaller herds would of course be in the same proportion.

### Persistency in Milking.

The French Canadian cows are noted for their persistency in milking. Many of them give milk almost the whole year round. The Buffalo test showed that they were almost as profitable at the end of the six months' strain as at the beginning. It is believed that had the test lasted for one year instead of for only six months, the Canadians, with their marked staying powers, would have shown their superiority in an even more decided manner.

### Richness of Milk.

As is well known, of all the standard breeds, the milk of the Holsteins contains the smallest percentage of butter fat. The Ayrshires are better, but their milk also ranks low. The Canadians give milk that is rich in

quality and attractive in appearance. Very few of them give milk that has less than 4 % of butter fat as an average for the whole year, while in individual cases it runs up to 6½ % or even 7 %. Moreover, the milk and cream are both of a rich color, and the cream itself, besides being greater in quantity, often sells at a higher price per gallon because of its attractive color.

## Conclusion.

Canadians do not need to import from abroad expensive animals to improve their dairy stock, for they have in the Dominion itself a race that is entitled to the very front rank, and which has before it a great future. Combining, as this breed does, unequalled hardiness, ability to pick up a living on rugged pastures and to thrive on ordinary food, docility, beauty, marked profitability, abundance and richness of milk, persistency in milking, and thriftiness which permits a greater number of heads to be kept, it is evidently the stock *par excellence* which Canadian dairymen should use to improve their herds.

## The Mount Victoria Herd.

The foundation animals of this herd were selected with the greatest care. It comprises many of the very finest animals of the breed. For example it includes Rouen, mentioned in the foregoing table; Den. Championne III, daughter of the first cow in the Buffalo test; Queen of Repentigny, which has carried off so many prizes for years past; Beauty of St. Norbert, which received first prize at Buffalo as a two year old heifer; two heifers descended from Liena Flory, the third cow in the Buffalo test; and others. Denise Championne I, the champion cow in the Buffalo test, has herself been lately purchased as an addition to the herd. At its head is the fine young bull, Prince Elegant II, sired by Prince Elegant I, who won the gold medal for aged bulls at Buffalo. The object kept in view is not merely to obtain animals that will bring prizes because of their beauty and correctness of form, but also those that will sustain the reputation of the race for abundance and quality of milk. For information apply to Mount Victoria Farm, Hudson Heights, P.Q.



Mount Victoria Fruit and Stock Farm,

HUDSON HEIGHTS, P.Q.

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